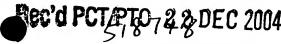
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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Applicant's or agent's file reference	(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)			
P800811/WO/1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Noti	R ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of Internation Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/4)		
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)		
PCT/EP2003/006155 International Patent Classification (IPC) o	12 June 2003 (12.06.2003)	24 June 2002 (24.06.2002		
B62D 1/18	. manoral classification and IFC			
Applicant	DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG			
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to the applicant	according to Afficie 36.			
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Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/006155

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	pages	1-7
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3. Wi	the language the language or 55.3). The regard to eliminary examinations furnished so furnished	ne language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language
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5.		has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**
and	(<i>70.17</i>).	ts which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16
		heet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/06155

v.	Reasoned statement under Article 35 citations and explanations supportin	5(2) with regard to novelty, g such statement	inventive step or industrial appl	licabili ty ;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-7	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-7	YES
		Claims		NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	YES
		Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Independent claim 1

1. Novelty and inventive step

Document GB-A-2 282 433, which is considered the closest prior art, discloses a steering column comprising a steering spindle that supports a steering wheel and is connected to a steering shaft, the connection between the steering spindle and the steering shaft being formed by a torque-transmitting joint, and the steering column further comprising an axially movable swing element for axial length compensation, wherein the swing element comprises at least one coupling member with two parallel axes of rotation, a cross member is linked to the opposite end of the steering spindle to the steering wheel, and an axis of the cross member forms an axis of rotation of the coupling member.

With respect to the above, the invention solves the problem of obtaining a common point of intersection between the longitudinal axis of the steering shaft and the central axis of the coupling member irrespective of the angle of rotation of the steering column and the position of the steering shaft relative to the steering

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spindle in order to avoid undesirable vibrations or feedback to the power-steering system.

According to the invention, this problem is solved by the fact that the steering shaft has a flange which ends at a distance from the longitudinal axis thereof and the flange pivots about the upper axis of rotation of the coupling member.

In their present form these novel features are not used with any known steering columns in order to solve the problem stated above and hence the subject matter of claim 1 also involves an inventive step.

The present application therefore satisfies the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) because the subject matter of the only independent claim, claim 1, is novel and inventive with respect to the prior art as defined in the PCT Regulations (PCT Rule 64.1 to 64.3).

2.3 Industrial applicability

The subject matter of claim 1 also seems to meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(4) because it would appear that it can be made and used at least in the field of motor vehicle technology.

2.1.4 Claims dependent on claim 1

Dependent claims 2 to 7, which concern further embodiments of the invention according to claim 1, likewise appear to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) to (4).